(c) According to agreements, Soviet credits are denominated in Roubles and the repayment of principal and payment of interest are made in non-convertible Indian rupees.

(d) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Steps to increase the availability of Hank Yarn

1200. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to increase the availability of hank yarn of counts below 40s;

(b) whether export of cotton yarn will be curtailed to meet the demands of local weavers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not how the demand of the weavers will be adjusted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Government of India is implementing the Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme which requires every producer of yarn to pack atleast 50 per cent of the total yarn packed for civil consumption in hank form of which not less than 80 per cent has to be in counts of 40s and below Packing of cotton yarn in hank form has been increasing from year to year and no scarcity of hank yarn had been reported in the country. With a view to further increase the availability of hank yarn of counts below 40s and also to check the rising trend in hank yarn prices noticed during recent weeks, Govt. has directed the National Textile Corporation and the State sector spinning mills to augment production of hank yarn of counts 40s and below by suitably adjusting their production pattern.

(b) and (c) Export of octton yarn of counts upto 60s in hank form is not being permitted, keeping in view the interests of handloom weavers. Government is closely monitoring the availability as well as price of hank yarn of various counts in different parts of the country. Government will consider curtailment of the ceiling fixed for cotton yarn export, as and when such a step is considered necessary.

Exports of Engineering Goods

1201. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being contemplated to increase the export of engineering goods;

(b) what has been annual export of engineering goods during the last three years, year-wise, particularly of tools, fibres, bicycles and autos; and

(c) whether Indian exporters have been able to bag contracts for O.M. services; if so, from which countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Government have recently adopted several measures which are expected to increase exports. These include the adjustment of the exchange rate of the rupee vis-a-vis other currencies and trade policy reforms. The measures that are expected to boost export of engineering goods in particular include provision for grant of Exim Scrip @ 30 per cent of f.o.b. value for all exports of engineering goods, grant of an additional 10 per cent Exim Scrip for export of specified advanced engineering goods, strengthening of the system of advance licences and modification of the method for determination of international price of steel for reimbursement under the International Price Reimbursement Scheme.

(b) Annual export of engineering goods during the last three years viz. 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 as per statistics compiled by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence &